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An ex-RAF pilot named John R. Hawke is currently under indictment in the United States for illegally exporting B-26 planes to Portugal. As early as November - December 1965 British newspapers carried the story that Hawke was actually acting for the Central Intelligence Agency in piloting these planes. Again, on May 9, 1966 a national magazine in the United States, NEWSWEEK, carried a story which quoted Hawke as saying he was a special project airman for the CIA and that his defense will center on that claim.

This matter has been gone into most carefully, and there is no information of any sort whatsoever that can connect Hawke's activities with the CIA. What this case comes down to is well stated by a United States Attorney who said that Hawke is making what will be the standard defense in all criminal cases pretty soon-- that it was a plot of the CIA. The trouble is that the press is all too willing to print the allegations as and when made so that the story of CIA's involvement spreads, and the later evidence in court to the contrary receives little or no attention.